

## REMARKS

Prior to the examination on the merits, Applicants respectfully request that the above-captioned application be amended as outlined above, and that the Examiner give due consideration to this application in view of such amendments and the following remarks, to indicate the allowability of the claims, and to pass this case to issue.

### Status of the Claims

As outlined above, claims 1-6, 8, 12 and 14-20 stand for consideration in this application, wherein the claims are being amended to correct formal errors and to more particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject invention. All amendments to the application are fully supported therein, including page 10, lines 20-21. Applicant hereby submits that no new matter is being introduced into the application through the submission of this response.

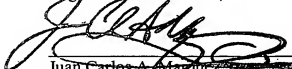
### Conclusion

In view of all the above, Applicants respectfully submit that certain clear and distinct differences as discussed exist between the present invention as now claimed and the prior art as a whole. These differences are more than sufficient that the present invention as now claimed would not have been anticipated nor rendered obvious given the prior art. Rather, the present invention as a whole is distinguishable, and thereby allowable over the prior art.

Favorable reconsideration of this application as amended is respectfully solicited. Should there be any outstanding issues requiring discussion that would further the prosecution and allowance of the above-captioned application, the Examiner is invited to contact the Applicants' undersigned representative at the address and phone number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,

Stanley P. Fisher  
Registration Number 24,344



Juan Carlos A. Marquez  
Registration Number 34,072

**REED SMITH LLP**  
3110 Fairview Park Drive  
Suite 1400  
Falls Church, Virginia 22042  
(703) 641-4200

**October 31, 2007**